

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
 POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
 Jacamar Fire Response - Removal Polrep
 Initial Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
 Region V

Subject: POLREP #1
 Initial
 Jacamar Fire Response
 C55Z
 Springboro, OH
 Latitude: 39.5641330 Longitude: -84.2443399

To: Jodi Billman-Kotsko, Ohio EPA
 Dale Farmer, Ohio EPA
 Scott Glum, Ohio EPA
 Bill Lohner, Ohio EPA
 Valencia Darby, U.S. DOI
 Jason El-Zein, U.S. EPA
 HQ EOC, U.S. EPA
 Matt Mankowski, U.S. EPA
 Denny Bristow, Dayton Regional Hazmat
 Distribution List, National Response Center
 Lauren Foster, TT START
 Victor Dvorak, U.S. EPA
 Tracy Johnson, U.S. EPA
 Jim Bolen, Warren County Emergency Services
 Chris Vecchi, Clearcreek Fire District
 Mark Schockman, Fire Science Investigations
 Dave Combs, Ohio EPA
 Robert Kidd, Clearcreek Fire District
 Duane Stansbury, Warren County Combined Health District
 Michael Grimes, Butler County Bomb Squad
 John Arnold, Warren County Prosecutor's Office
 Kevin Chow, U.S. EPA
 Patrick Schomaker, Smith, Rolfes & Skavdahl Co.
 Jeff Kruithoff, Springboro Police Department
 Dan Bentley, Springboro Police Department
 Christine Thompson, City of Springboro
 Dustin Ratliff, Warren County Combined Health District
 William Jetter, Greater Cincinnati Hazardous Materials Unit
 Rick Maier, FBI
 Steve Agenbroad, Clearcreek Fire District
 Mike Bunner, Warren County Emergency Services
 Jeff Leaming, State Fire Marshal
 Chad Wissinger, State Fire Marshal
 Valerie Mullins, EPA 5

From: Steven Renninger, On-Scene Coordinator
Date: 2/15/2015
Reporting Period: February 10 to February 14, 2015

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number: C55Z **Contract Number:**

D.O. Number:		Action Memo Date:	
Response Authority:	CERCLA	Response Type:	Emergency
Response Lead:	EPA	Incident Category:	Removal Action
NPL Status:	Non NPL	Operable Unit:	
Mobilization Date:	2/13/2015	Start Date:	2/13/2015
Demob Date:		Completion Date:	
CERCLIS ID:		RCRIS ID:	
ERNS No.:		State Notification:	
FPN#:		Reimbursable Account #:	

1.1.1 Incident Category

Emergency Response

1.1.2 Site Description

On Wednesday, February 4, 2015 at 10:47 a.m. the Clearcreek Fire District responded to an automatic fire alarm located at a private residence on Jacamar Court in the City of Springboro, Ohio. Upon arrival at the scene fire crews discovered a working structure fire in a single story residential house with a basement. An in-ground swimming pool is located behind the house. No additional above or below-ground structures were observed on the property. Fire department personnel worked for several hours to contain the fire and were challenged by the extremely large amount of contents inside the house. After the fire was extinguished, fire investigators began to evaluate the scene to determine where and how the fire started.

The Ohio EPA, Insurance Fire Investigation Team, and local fire department documented a large quantity of unknown chemicals in the residence. On February 9, 2015, a shock sensitive chemical ignited at the property after a pile of debris was shifted during the fire investigation. Following the chemical fire, Ohio EPA requested US EPA assistance at the Site.

The residential Site encompasses an area of approximately 2,500 square feet. A small portion of the 1,656 square foot structure remains standing. The in-ground swimming pool is more than half filled with liquid. Piles of contaminated debris are present on Site with a majority of the piles partially buried. An exclusion zone was created around the swimming pools, structural remains of the home, and burned debris piles. The site is currently delineated by a chain link fence and posted with "No Trespassing" signs.

1.1.2.1 Location

The site is located on private property on Jacamar Court in Springboro, Warren County, Ohio. The geographical coordinates are 39.5641330, -84.2443399.

The east-facing house is situated on the southern portion of a 0.55 acre lot located in a cul-de-sac. An in-ground pool is located behind the house, on the west side of the property.

The site is located in a residential area, with residences located within 200 feet to the northeast, east, and south of the site. The site is bounded to the northwest and west by a wooded area. Further northwest is a tributary that connects to Clear Creek, with residential and wooded areas beyond. Access to the site has been granted to EPA by the private land owner.

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

There are numerous containers of unknown chemicals present at the site. In an interview with a fire investigator, the property owner admitted that hazardous materials, were stored in the basement of the house. An unknown amount of chemicals were released during the fire and firefighting measures. Fire water run-off and chemicals potentially entered the swimming pool behind the house, providing the contaminated liquid route of migration to the sub-surface soil. Many containers of unknown chemicals remain on the site, buried in debris. The chemicals on the property were impacted by the fire, and therefore require specialized resources to properly and safely remove them from the site for proper off-site disposal.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

US EPA OSC Renninger, Ohio EPA OSC Dale Farmer, Ohio EPA OSC Bill Lohner, EPA's START contractor, and representatives from Warren County Emergency Services, Clearcreek Fire District, and Fire Science Investigations performed a site reconnaissance on February 10, 2015.

Numerous containers of unknown chemicals were observed throughout the site. Visible containers range in size from quart jars to half-gallon jars. Many containers are spilled, broken, or otherwise

destroyed. Many containers were partially buried, with only small portions of containers visible. Many containers appear to have no, or illegible labels.

The swimming pool was observed to be partially filled and contain chemical runoff from the fire and firefighting measures.

A runoff migration pathway was observed in the northwestern portion of the site. The pathway appears to lead down an embankment toward a stream. The terrain around the stream is wooded and steep.

Debris piles and other potential shock sensitive chemicals in the debris precluded any sampling activities and air monitoring activities within the building footprint. Approximately 45 containers of chemicals were segregated in the driveway of the house by CFD, having been encountered and removed from debris piles during the initial portion of the fire investigation.

Elevated levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were detected around debris piles throughout the site and near the chemical containers segregated in the driveway.

A chain link fence surrounds the site, including the remaining structure, the debris piles, and the swimming pool. A strong chemical odor is present within the building footprint. Air monitoring was conducted around the perimeter of the site. No deflections from background levels were observed outside of the fence line.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

There are numerous containers of unknown chemicals present at the site within the fire debris. In an interview with a fire investigator, the homeowner admitted that hazardous materials, including solvents and lab chemicals, were stored in the basement of the house.

An unknown amount of chemicals were released during the fire and firefighting measures. Chemical runoff traveled overland potentially infiltrating surface soil and surface water in the process. Chemical spillage also entered the swimming pool behind the house, providing the contaminated liquid route of migration to the sub-surface soil.

Many containers of unknown chemicals remain on the site, buried in debris. The chemicals on the property were impacted by the fire, and therefore require specialized resources to properly and safely remove them from the site for proper off-site disposal. On February 11, 2015, the property owner and insurance informed EPA that they did not have the resources to conduct the removal of chemicals and contaminated debris from the property for off-site disposal. In consideration of these factors, the EPA initiated an emergency response to address the potential risk of explosion, fire, and release of hazardous substances to the environment.

A unified command has been established with EPA, Ohio EPA, Clearcreek Fire District, Springboro Police Department, Warren County Combined Health District, Warren County Emergency Management Agency, and the City of Springboro. Coordinating agencies can be found in Section 3. Unified Command meetings were conducted on February 11 and 13, 2015 at the Springboro City Building.

EPA initiated mobilization of equipment and personnel on February 13, 2015. Perimeter air monitoring around the fence line of the site is being conducted. A security guard is present at the site during all non-working hours. An office trailer and generator were mobilized to the Site on February 13, 2015.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

On February 4, 2015, the Clearcreek Fire District responded to a working structure fire in a single story residential house at the site. Fire department personnel worked for several hours to contain the fire and were challenged by the extremely large amount of contents inside the house. After the fire was extinguished, fire investigators began to evaluate the scene to determine where and how the fire started. The Ohio EPA, Fire Investigation Team, and local fire department documented a large quantity of unknown chemicals in the residence. Approximately 40 chemical containers were segregated from the debris and staged in the the driveway.

February 9, 2015

-A chemical bottle ignited at the property after a pile of debris was shifted during the fire investigation; and

-Ohio EPA verbally requested US EPA assistance at a residential fire in Springboro, OH.

February 10, 2014

- EPA issued a TDD authorizing EPA START Tetra Tech to perform site assessment activities;
- EPA and START were escorted onto the property by Clearcreek Fire District and accompanied by representatives from Ohio EPA, Warren County Emergency Services, and the homeowner's insurance Fire Investigation Team;
- OSC Renninger and START performed site reconnaissance and air monitoring;
- EPA and START observed numerous chemical containers in and around the fire debris; chemical names were recorded if labels were legible;
- EPA and START observed a strong chemical odor within building footprint;
- Representatives from the homeowner's insurance company constructed a chain link fence around the site perimeter, securing the site to limit trespassing or other unauthorized entry;
- START performed perimeter air and radiation monitoring; no deflections from background readings were observed outside of the fence line;
- START performed air and radiation monitoring within the site; elevated VOCs were detected near various chemical containers and debris piles; and
- EPA and START perform photo documentation of site conditions.

February 11, 2015

- Ohio EPA formally requests US EPA assistance at the site;
- Established Unified Command; coordinating agencies are listed in Section 3;
- Conducted Unified Command briefing at City of Springboro Municipal Building;
- Drafted Emergency Contingency Plan for the site to cover Trespassing, Fire, Medical Emergency;
- EPA received notification that the homeowner and Insurance that they are unable to fund cleanup activities;
- Homeowner signed access agreement, granting EPA access to site and to proceed with cleanup activities;
- Scheduled upcoming neighborhood meeting for February 17 at 1900 hours with property owners on Jacamar Court to explain cleanup activities; and

Thursday, February 12

- EPA removal contractor (Environmental Quality Mang) drafted Health & Safety Plan;
- START drafted Air Monitoring Plan for protection of Site workers and public;
- Clearcreek Fire District issued media release summarizing response and announcing upcoming media briefing; and
- WCCHD posted signs at the site declaring it a public health threat.

Friday, February 13, 2015

- EPA, EQM, and START mobilized to the site to perform the emergency removal action;
- EQM mobilized an office trailer and a generator to the site;
- EQM mobilized a security guard to the site during all non-working hours;
- START mobilized to the site to assist with assessment, sampling and monitoring activities;
- Unified Command meeting conducted at Springboro City Building;
- EPA, Clearcreek Fire District, and Springboro Police Department held a media briefing providing updates on Unified Command decisions and cleanup activities (see Links in web site);
- Finalized Emergency Contingency Plan for the site and distributed; and

-START performed perimeter air monitoring at the site; no deflection from background levels was observed outside of fence line.

Saturday, February 14, 2015

-EPA continued to mobilize equipment to the site, Health & Safety Plan drafted;

-START performed photo documentation at the site and the staging area; and

-START performed perimeter air monitoring at the site; no deflection from background levels was observed outside of fence line.

2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

The private property owner has stated that he is financially unable to perform the removal.

The private property owner's insurance company has stated that they cannot cover the cost of clean-up under the homeowner's insurance policy.

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

No pertinent information to report at this time.

<i>Waste Stream</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Manifest #</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Disposal</i>

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

Anticipated removal activities for the Site include, but are not limited to, the following:

-EPA will continue to lead removal activities at the Site;

-Finalize and implement the HASP;

-Finalize and implement the Air Monitoring Plan;

-Continue to mobilize contractors and equipment to site;

-Conduct comprehensive air monitoring for Site workers and community protection;

-Initiate containerization of swimming pool liquid on Feb 16;

-Conduct inventory of hazardous materials stored at the site;

-Stabilize hazardous materials pending testing and disposal;

-Segregate contaminated debris and hazardous materials into hazard categories;

-Sample for hazard categorization and disposal profiling;

-Consolidate, repack, over-pack, and lab-pack materials;

-Off-site disposal, treatment, or recycling of materials;

-Additional cleanup activities that may include demolition as necessary to provide a safe and efficient work environment, excavation of contaminated soils, as necessary, decontamination of personnel and equipment;

-Continue to coordinate with Local, County, State, Federal, and private entities via Unified Command. Next UC Meeting is scheduled for Feb 17 at 1600 hours;

-Conduct meeting with property owners on Jacamar Court on Feb 17 at 1900 hours at Springboro City Building;

-CIC Ginny Narsete will mobilize to the site on Feb 17 to coordinate with participating entities on public outreach and communications;

-Hold a Unified Command media briefing on February 17 at 2000 hours, following neighborhood information session; schedule future media briefings as necessary.

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

See Section 2.2.1.

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

See Section 2.2.1.

2.2.2 Issues

- News (media) briefings will be conducted on February 17 and on an as-needed basis

- Unified Command meetings will be conducted on an as-needed basis

2.3 Logistics Section

Logistical support is being provided by EPA contractors. Response equipment, supplies and personnel initiated mobilization on February 13, 2015

The City of Springboro has provided use of their Municipal Building for Unified Command meetings and support.

The City of Springboro has identified Jacamar Court as "No Parking" with street signs. Street signs have been posted in front of Site office trailer.

Insurance Company erected fence to surround debris piles on property.

Health Department posted property "Unfit for Human Habitation" on Feb 13, 2015

2.4 Finance Section

2.4.1 Narrative

EPA is funding the removal of chemicals and contaminated debris from the property.

The accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
ERRS - Cleanup Contractor	\$100,000.00	\$3,500.00	\$96,500.00	96.50%
START	\$20,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$18,000.00	90.00%
Intramural Costs				
USEPA - Direct	\$5,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$4,000.00	80.00%

Total Site Costs	\$125,000.00	\$6,500.00	\$118,500.00	94.80%
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* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

2.5 Other Command Staff

2.5.1 Safety Officer

OSC Renninger is serving as the Safety Officer with START and EQM each providing an Assistant Safety Officer.

EQM is preparing a Health & Safety Plan.

2.5.2 Liaison Office

Ginny Narsete, EPA CIC, will serve as liaison information officer upon her arrival on Feb 17.

2.5.3 Information Officer

See Section 2.5.2. There is press interest in the incident. A Media Briefing was conducted on February 13. The next media briefing is scheduled for February 17.

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command

Unified Command has been established with EPA, Ohio EPA, Clearcreek Fire District, Springboro Police Department, City of Springboro, Warren County Combined Health District, Warren County EMA

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

The following local, county, state, and federal agencies and private entities are providing support:

Greater Cincinnati Hazardous Materials Unit
 Warren County Prosecutor's Office
 Butler County Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad
 State Fire Marshal's Office
 FBI
 Fire Science Investigations

4. Personnel On Site

The following personnel were on-site at various times throughout this reporting period:

US EPA - 1

Ohio EPA - 2

START - 1

ERRS - 4 (including off-shift security)

5. Definition of Terms

START Superfund Technical Assistance and Response Team
 HASP Health and Safety Plan

6. Additional sources of information

6.1 Internet location of additional information/report

<http://www.epaossc.org/jacamarfirerresponse>

6.2 Reporting Schedule

Pollution Report #2 will be issued during the week of Feb 16, 2015

7. Situational Reference Materials

All situational reference materials will be uploaded to <http://epaosc.org/jacamarfirerresponse>.